

or promoters which regulate the expression of at least one of the coding sequences of said recombinant vector.

21. (New) A host cell infected with a retroviral vector or a derivative thereof according to Claim 1.
22. (New) A host cell infected with a retroviral vector or a derivative thereof according to Claim 5.

Added.

REMARKS

Claim amendments

New Claims 18-22 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. For example, support can be found in original Claims 1, 5, 6, 7 and 17. No new matter has been added.

Traversal of the restriction requirement

The Examiner states that the Group I claims (Claims 1-4 and 8) are drawn to a "recombinant vector" and that the Group II claims (Claims 5-7, 9 and 13) are drawn to a "recombinant retroviral vector system" (Office Action, page 2). In the specification as filed, Applicants teach that a "recombinant retroviral system" comprises "a retroviral vector . . . as a first component *and* a packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral to be packaged" (specification, page 14, lines 1-4). Claim 9 is drawn to a recombinant retroviral vector system and Claim 13 is drawn to a retroviral particle produced by a recombinant retroviral vector system. However, Claims 5-7 are drawn to a recombinant retroviral vector. A "packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral to be packaged" is not an element of Claims 5-7. Therefore, Claims 5-7 should be included with the claims of Group I. In addition, new Claims 18-20, which are directed to a

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recombinant vector, and new Claims 21-22, which are directed to a host cell comprising the claimed retroviral vector, should be included with the Group I claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request modification of the restriction requirement wherein Claims 5-7 and new Claims 18-22 are included in Group I.

Respectfully submitted,
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